Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1204

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO, RO
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE MILITARY DELEGATION TO ROMANIA

REF: LISBON 1200

1. NATO AMBASSADORS MEETING MARCH 19 WAS FIRST ONE
ATTENDED BY NEWLY-ARRIVED PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR ANTONIO
NOVAIS MACHADO WHO HAS SOME BACKGROUND IN NATO AFFAIRS.

2. IN DISCUSSING RECENT VISIT TO ROMANIA OF PORTUGUESE
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO, HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

   A. VISIT WAS IN GOOOD PART DUE TO PERSISTENCE OF
ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR. FABIAO TOLD THE PORTUGUESE
AMBASSADOR AT ONE POINT THAT ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS SO
MUCH MORE PERSISTENT THAN US AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS
THAT HE DECIDED TO ACCEPT ROMANIAN INVITATION FIRST.

   B. AMBASSADOR ALSO GAVE CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT TO
PORTUGUESE SEARCH FOR LATIN AFFINITIES IN ROMANIA, AS WELL
AS CURIOSITY TO SEE THEM IN A SOCIALIST CONTEXT.

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   C. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN SOME

IDEA OF HOW ROMANIAN ARMY WAS USED IN PROJECTS OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEREST AS A POSSIBLE GUIDE FOR
USEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF PORTUGUESE FORCES BEING DEMOBILIZED.

3. AT END OF PRESENTATION PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR (PROTECT
ON THIS SCORE) MADE STRONG PLEA TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND
MYSELF TO PASS ON TO OUR GOVERNMENTS IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING
OUR INVITATIONS TO FABIAO. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR NOTED
THAT ALMOST ALL THOSE IN PORTUGAL WHO HAD HAD CONTACTS WITH
NATO WERE NOW OUT OF THE MAIN STREAM AND THE LEADERSHIP OF
THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (PEOPLE LIKE FABIAO AND
VASCO LOURENCO, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM HERE) KNEW "ALMOST
LITERALLY NOTHING ABOUT NATO AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF EAST-
WEST FORCES IN EUROPE."
BARNES

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